

✓ 1. Stevenson
2. Pres.

December 4, 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Bulletins from the Bedside

I attach a pleasant story from the Daily News. This has deepened the gloom in New York. Clayton reports this morning, "Something more must be done. Adlai is very close to throwing in the towel." The feeling is that his position in the UN has been greatly damaged, and that some further public action will be necessary to restore it.

Clayton and I have this idea for your consideration -- that is, a letter from you to Adlai making clear your continued confidence in him. If you have a press conference on Thursday and get questions about Stevenson, you could simply pull the letter out of your pocket, read it and decline to take any further questions on the subject. I will try to rough out a draft of such a letter during the day.

Charlie Bartlett called Clayton this morning. Clayton told him that, if the White House wanted Adlai to resign, the Bowles approach was not necessary; Adlai would resign whenever he received any indication that the President wanted his resignation. Charlie vigorously denied that the Post article was any such indication and said again that you had absolutely nothing to do with it -- all of which Clayton is repeating to Adlai.

Arthur Schlesinger, Jr.